



AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A system of coupling flanges, comprising:

an internal conical ring $[(9)]$;

an external conical ring $[(8)]$;

semi-through side slots $[(8D)]$ spread out regularly with respect to one another inside said external conical ring $[(8)]$; and

a flange having a rigid housing $[(7)]$ with a cylindrical axial passage $[(7A)]$ coaxially accommodating said internal conical ring $[(9)]$ and said external conical ring $[(8)]$,

said internal and external conical rings cooperating through relative axial movement to link by friction said flange with a hollow shaft $[(2)]$, and to define an annular space $[(10)]$ between an inside surface of said cylindrical axial passage $[(7A)]$ and an outer surface of said external conical ring $[(8)]$,

said annular space $[(10)]$ making it possible to engage an end $[(2A)]$ of said hollow shaft $[(2)]$,

said external conical ring [(8)] being elastically deformable radially so as to clamp by pinching said end [(2A)] of said hollow shaft [(2)] in said annular space [(10)] during an end-wise movement of said internal conical ring [(9)] and said external conical ring [(8)],

wherein, said external conical ring has an annular external shoulder forming at a bottom of said annular space and against which is applied to abut a transversal face of said end of said shaft.

2. (currently amended) A ~~device~~ system according to claim 1, wherein, the semi-through side slots [(8D)] terminate alternatively in a first end [(8E)] and a second end [(8F)] of transversal faces of said external conical ring [(8)], ~~and all slots of the external conical ring terminate in one of the first end and the second end of the transversal faces of said external conical ring.~~

3. (currently amended) A ~~device~~ system according to claim 1, characterized in that it also includes a rotating link [(14)] between said rigid housing [(7)] and said internal conical ring [(9)].

4. (currently amended) A ~~device according to claim 3~~
system of coupling flanges, comprising:

an internal conical ring;
an external conical ring;
semi-through side slots spread out regularly with
respect to one another inside said external conical ring;
a flange having a rigid housing with a cylindrical
axial passage coaxially accommodating said internal conical ring
and said external conical ring,
said internal and external conical rings cooperating
through relative axial movement to link by friction said flange
with a hollow shaft, and to define an annular space between an
inside surface of said cylindrical axial passage and an outer
surface of said external conical ring,
said annular space making it possible to engage an
end of said hollow shaft,
said external conical ring being elastically
deformable radially so as to clamp by pinching said end of said
hollow shaft in said annular space during an end-wise movement
of said internal conical ring and said external conical ring; and
a rotating link between said rigid housing and said
internal conical ring,
wherein, said rotating link [(14)] is made of
cooperating teeth ~~(9C, 7F)~~ arranged respectively on an outer
perimeter of said internal conical ring [(9)] and on an
inner perimeter of said cylindrical axial passage of said
rigid housing [(7)].

5. (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein, said annular space $[(10)]$ is closed on one end and open on another end, and extends over the entire length of said external conical ring $[(8)]$.

7. (cancelled)

8. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein, said cylindrical axial passage $[(7A)]$ of said housing $[(7)]$ terminates by an internal annular shoulder $[(7D)]$ against which said external annular ring bears.

9. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein, an inside conical surface $[(8C)]$ and an outside conical surface $[(9A)]$, respectively of said external conical ring $[(8)]$ and said internal conical ring $[(9)]$ are cone-shaped with an apex on the opposite end to said shaft.

10. (currently amended) A ~~device according to~~
~~claim 1~~ system of coupling flanges, comprising:
an internal conical ring;

an external conical ring;
semi-through side slots spread out regularly with
respect to one another inside said external conical ring; and
a flange having a rigid housing with a cylindrical
axial passage coaxially accommodating said internal conical ring
and said external conical ring,
said internal and external conical rings cooperating
through relative axial movement to link by friction said flange
with a hollow shaft, and to define an annular space between an
inside surface of said cylindrical axial passage and an outer
surface of said external conical ring,
said annular space making it possible to engage an
end of said hollow shaft,
said external conical ring being elastically
deformable radially so as to clamp by pinching said end of said
hollow shaft in said annular space during an end-wise movement
of said internal conical ring and said external conical ring,
wherein, said internal conical ring [(9)] extends
on the end opposite to said shaft in a threaded cylindrical
part [(9C)] opening from said cylindrical axial passage
[(7A)] of said rigid housing and includes a clamping device
[(11)] screwed onto said threaded cylindrical part [(9C)]
and is applied against said rigid housing [(7)] to pull said
internal conical ring and cause a spreading apart of said
external conical ring.

11. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein, an inner surface [(9E)] of said internal conical ring flares linearly through to its transversal face [(9F)] turned towards said shaft so that a transversal section of said internal conical ring decreases gradually.

12. (currently amended) A device according to claim 2, further comprising a rotating link [(14)] between said rigid housing [(7)] and said internal conical ring [(9)].